



# Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 20 OCTOBER 1972

COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM/CHINA/USSR

DOI: 9 OCTOBER 1972

SUBJECT: A NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT THAT  
CHINA AND THE USSR ARE PRESSURING HANOI TO NEGOTIATE;  
AND HIS COMMENTS ON HANOI'S PEACE PROPOSAL AND OTHER  
ASPECTS OF THE VIETNAM SITUATION

ACQ: 17 OCTOBER 1972

SUMMARY: CHINA AND THE USSR ARE APPLYING A CERTAIN AMOUNT  
OF PRESSURE ON HANOI TO REACH A COMPROMISE WITH THE  
U.S. IN THE VIETNAM PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, A NORTH VIETNAMESE  
OFFICIAL ABROAD STATED ON 9 OCTOBER. THIS IS  
PARTICULARLY TRUE OF CHINA, THE OFFICIAL SAID, SINCE  
CHINA IS ANXIOUS TO NORMALIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.  
DISCUSSING THE 11 SEPTEMBER PEACE PROPOSAL, THE OFFICIAL SAID  
THAT WHILE PRESIDENT THIEU WOULD HAVE TO RESIGN AND LEAVE

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THE COUNTRY DURING THE TENURE OF THE THREE-PART PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH HANOI WANTS ESTABLISHED IN THE SOUTH, NORTH VIETNAM HAS NO OBJECTION TO THIEU PARTICIPATING IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS WHICH WILL FOLLOW. ON TERMS FOR A CEASE-FIRE, THE OFFICIAL SAID HANOI WILL RELEASE SOME U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR AS A GOODWILL GESTURE ONCE THE U.S. HAS MET ALL OF NORTH VIETNAM'S DEMANDS. THE OFFICIAL ADMITTED THAT THE U.S. MINING HAS AFFECTED THE WAR EFFORT AND HAS SLOWED THE SUPPLY OF SOVIET AND CHINESE GOODS, BUT HE ESTIMATED THAT NORTH VIETNAM CAN, NONETHELESS, CONTINUE THE WAR FOR ANOTHER TWO OR THREE YEARS AT THE PRESENT PACE. THE OFFICIAL REJECTED THE THOUGHT THAT HANOI COULD ARRANGE A CEASE-FIRE IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA, SAYING THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO NEGOTIATE THIS SEPARATELY WITH THE LEADERS INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. NORTH VIETNAM IS UNDER A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PRESSURE FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) AND THE USSR TO REACH SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE WITH THE U.S. IN THE VIETNAM PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, A NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL ABROAD ACKNOWLEDGED

ON 9 OCTOBER 1972.

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COMMENT: THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT THE NORTH  
VIETNAMESE \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICIAL MADE HIS COMMENTS  
REALIZING THAT HIS COMMENTS WOULD PROBABLY REACH FREE WORLD  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.)

2. THE OFFICIAL WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PRC IN  
PARTICULAR IS KEEN ON A SETTLEMENT OF THE VIETNAM WAR  
BECAUSE THE PRC IS ANXIOUS TO NORMALIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH  
THE U.S. WHILE TAIWAN IS ALSO A MAJOR PROBLEM IN SINO-  
U.S. RELATIONS, THE OFFICIAL NOTED, THE PRC IS IN NO HURRY  
TO RESOLVE THIS. ONCE NORTH VIETNAM HAS NEGOTIATED PEACE  
WITH THE U.S., THE OFFICIAL ASSERTED, THE CHINESE WILL  
HAVE CROSSED A MAJOR HURDLE, FOR THEY CANNOT DO MUCH  
UNTIL THE WAR ENDS. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE OFFICIAL SAID  
THAT WHILE NORTH VIETNAM NEEDS THE PRC, THE PRC NEEDS NORTH  
VIETNAM MORE. FOR THEIR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS, THE  
OFFICIAL STATED, THE CHINESE HAVE TO BE OUR FRIENDS, BUT  
WE ARE INDEPENDENT.

3. HINTING THAT THE 11 SEPTEMBER STATEMENT BY NORTH

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VIETNAM AND THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE PRC AND THE USSR, THE OFFICIAL TERMED THE STATEMENT THE BEST FACE-SAVING MEASURE HANOI CAN OFFER THE U.S. THE IMPORTANT POINT IN THE STATEMENT, THE OFFICIAL SAID, IS THAT BOTH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND THE VIET CONG WILL AGREE TO THE FORMATION OF A THREE-PART PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH WILL, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS TO ALLOW THE PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. NORTH VIETNAM IS PREPARED TO STATE IN PUBLIC AND IN WRITING THAT COMMUNIST RULE WILL NOT BE IMPOSED ON THE SOUTH EITHER BY FORCE OR SO-CALLED SUBVERSION. MOREOVER, NORTH VIETNAM ACCEPTS THAT THE GENERAL ELECTIONS SHOULD BE SUPERVISED BY AN INTERNATIONAL BODY, WHICH CAN INCLUDE ALLIES OF THE U.S. AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UN. THE OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT HANOI WOULD ASK THE PRC AND THE USSR TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL BODY ON NORTH VIETNAM'S BEHALF.

## 4. REGARDING THE FUTURE OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT

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NGUYEN VAN THIEU, THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT WHILE THIEU WOULD HAVE TO RESIGN AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY DURING THE TENURE OF THE THREE-PART GOVERNMENT, HANOI HAS NO OBJECTION TO THIEU PARTICIPATING LATER IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS AND BECOMING CHIEF EXECUTIVE AGAIN IF HE WINS. THE OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT INFLUENTIAL SOUTH VIETNAMESE WHO ARE LIVING IN EXILE ABROAD MUST BE GIVEN SOME REPRESENTATION IN THE THREE-PART GOVERNMENT WHEN IT IS FORMED.

5. ON TERMS FOR A CEASE-FIRE, THE OFFICIAL STATED THAT BEFORE ANY CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO CEASE THE BOMBING AND REMOVE THE MINES, AND THEN SET A DEFINITE DATE FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS AND ALL U.S. INSTALLATIONS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT FROM THE THIEU GOVERNMENT AND AGREE TO THE FORMATION OF THE THREE-PART GOVERNMENT. ONCE THE U.S. DOES THIS, A CEASE-FIRE WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY, AND NORTH VIETNAM, AS A GOODWILL GESTURE, WILL RELEASE SOME U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR.

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6. THE OFFICIAL ADMITTED THAT THE U.S. MINING OF NORTH VIETNAMESE PORTS HAS AFFECTED THE WAR EFFORT AND HAS SLOWED THE SUPPLY OF SOVIET AND CHINESE WAR MATERIEL AND CONSUMER GOODS. NONETHELESS, THE OFFICIAL ESTIMATED, NORTH VIETNAM CAN CONTINUE THE WAR AT ITS PRESENT PACE FOR ANOTHER TWO OR THREE YEARS.

7. TURNING TO INDOCHINA IN GENERAL, THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT IF THE U.S. WANTS A CEASE-FIRE IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT THE AREA, IT SHOULD OPEN SEPARATE TALKS WITH CAMBODIAN COMMUNIST AND PATHET LAO LEADERS SINCE HANOI HAS NO CONTROL OVER THEM. THE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NORTH VIETNAM IS HELPING COMMUNIST FORCES IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS BUT REPEATED THAT NORTH VIETNAM DOES NOT RUN THEIR AFFAIRS.

8. FIELD DISSEM: SENT TO CINCPAC (EXCLUSIVE FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY), SAIGON (FOR AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND WHITEHOUSE AND GENERAL WEYAND ONLY), PARIS (FOR AMBASSADOR PORTER AND MR. ISHAM ONLY) AND HONG KONG (FOR CONSUL GENERAL ONLY). CLASSIFIED BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. EXEMPT FROM DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652. EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B (2). IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE OF AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION.

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